

REMARKS

Claims 10-19 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant editorially amends the specification and claims 10, 13-16, and 19 for improved conformity with the US practice and to further clarify the invention. No new matter is being added. The amendments to the claims were made for reasons of precision of language and consistency, and do not narrow the literal scope of the claims and thus do not implicate an estoppel in the application of the doctrine of equivalents.

I. Preliminary Matters

As preliminary matters, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority and for indicating receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the National Stage application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for returning the initialed forms PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on January 4, 2006, July 3, 2006, and November 2, 2007. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating acceptance of the drawing figures filed on January 4, 2006.

II. Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner objected to the specification. The Examiner rejected claims 10-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 10-19 are also subject to a Restriction Requirement.

III. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the title of the invention as being not descriptive and for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Applicant respectfully

requests the Examiner to withdraw these objections to the specification in view of the self-explanatory amendments being made herein.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these grounds of rejections at least in view of the self-explanatory claim amendments being made herein.

V. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these grounds of rejections at least in view of the self-explanatory claim amendments being made herein.

Applicant further notes that the claims are not so indefinite and confusing so as not to be examined by the Examiner. The § 112, second paragraph, rejection relates to the preamble of the claims (*see* page 8 of the Office Action). The Examiner has not rejected the body of the claims and as such the claims should have been examined on their merits.

VI. Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to a Restriction Requirement, Applicant elects **Group I**, which includes claims 10-12, 14 and 16-18, for examination on the merits. This election is made with traverse.

The Examiner has already examined claims 10-19 without any serious burden. Furthermore, the International Search Report relates to claims 1-9 and not claims 10-19. Accordingly, the Examiner's comment regarding alleged lack of unity of invention in the PCT application (*see* pages 8-9 of the Office Action) is without merit. Applicant respectfully submits

that since the Examiner already examined claims 10-19 without any serious burden, this restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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